

Proclamation

Alcohol and drug abuse continues to challenge our island community, create a strain on our municipal resources and endanger the lives of innocent citizens. This abuse prevents thousands of Hawai`i's residents from reaching their full potential at school, on the job and in their communities. Entire families have been deeply affected by substance abuse along with the mental and physical illnesses that accompany addiction.

Law enforcement officials across the state and nation are dedicated to minimizing the availability of illicit drugs in our community. Every day, they face danger in order to protect our citizens from the harmful effects of drugs.

After the tragic murder in 1985 of DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena by Mexican drug traffickers, many Americans became acutely aware of the dangers of drugs and the international scope of the drug trade.

In 1988, President and Mrs. Reagan joined the National Family Partnership (NFP) in recognizing the first *Red Ribbon Week* to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Camarena and all other agents and officers who sacrificed their lives in the fight against the violence of drug crime and the misery of addiction.

NFP estimates that nearly 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon events each year, making it the nation's largest drug prevention campaign. Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and to a personal commitment to live drug free lives with the ultimate goal being the creation for a drug free America.

Schools, businesses, faith communities, media, families and community coalitions recognize this week in many ways, including sponsoring essays and poster contests; organizing drug-free races; decorating buildings in red; holding parades and community events; publicizing the value of a drug-free and healthy lifestyle; and, above all, wearing red ribbons in support of this anti-drug campaign.

By wearing a red ribbon during this national observance, we stand united to honor the courage and convictions of the American heroes that protect us everyday; to remember the reality of drugs and the thousands of lives they destroy; and, to celebrate the millions of adults and children who are pledging to stay strong and drug-free.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai`i, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim October 23 through 31, 2006, as

RED RIBBON WEEK

in Hawai`i, and urge all of our island residents to join together in the fight against drugs in our islands.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-third day of October 2006.

Linda Lingle

Governor, State of Hawai'i

James R. "Duke" Aiona, Ir

Lieutenant/Governor, State of Hawai`i